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20 December 1955

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief, Technical Services Staff

SUBJECT: Burial Containers for Weapons

REFERENCE: Memorandum from DD/P/TSS/ED to DD/P Materiel Board, subj; "Determination of Sizes for Burial Containers to be Developed by Technical Services Staff"

1. At its meeting of 15 December 1955, the DD/P Materiel Board approved the recommendations of the Special Equipment and Techniques Working Group for container development shown in the attachment, only with respect to the development of one container, "Container A". No requirement was found for development of "Container B".

2. It is anticipated that representatives of the PP Staff and OL must cooperate closely with your engineers during the initial phase of this development. This should include assistance in a variety of packing arrangements in a mock up of the container. This cooperation will be available at your request.

FOR THE CHAIRMAN

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Executive
DD/P Materiel Board

Attachment (1)
(Operational Development Requirement for Burial Containers for Weapons)

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23 November 1955

MEMORANDUM FOR: Executive Group, DD/P Materiel Board

SUBJECT: Operational Development Requirement for Burial Containers for Weapons

1. The Special Equipment and Techniques Working Group recommends that the attached requirement for Burial Containers for Weapons be:

- a. Accepted as valid for development.
- b. Forwarded to TSS for developmental action.
- c. Assigned Priority 2 for development.

2. In the opinion of the Working Group the approval of the recommendations herein will not involve any change in Clandestine Services plans, policies or programs.

3. The need for this development was initially called to the attention of the PP Staff by the Engineering Division of TSS which has developed or is developing a comprehensive family of small containers. During subsequent study it was determined that, in addition to containers now available or under development, the provision of the two containers described in the attachment would satisfy caching container problems for all weapons.

4. TSS Engineers, experienced in the technical aspects of this proposed development, furnished the following information which is pertinent to proper consideration of this problem.

a. The recommended development is obviously feasible and no separate feasibility study is indicated at this time.

b. Time.

(1) Based upon past experience this development will require from two to three years. Included in this period would be engineering tests, production of a limited quantity of containers and initiation of extended service tests.

(2) After satisfactory completion of tests an additional period of about eight to ten months would probably be required to initiate production.

*DD/P Materiel Board approved one container only (Container "A") 15 Dec 55.

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(3) Because there is a need for these containers in current and contemplated caching programs, development should be initiated at once.

c. Cost.

(1) Present personnel and engineering facilities are considered adequate to process and supervise this development.

(2) It is contemplated that this development will be handled through an external contract.


(3) It is not believed that approval of this development at this time would adversely affect other projects already approved or under consideration.

(4) It is impracticable to estimate fund requirements at this time.

5. Members desiring further information on this proposal may secure same by calling the Secretary of the Working Group at Extension .

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Acting Chairman
Special Equipment and Techniques
Working Group

Attachment (1)
Operational Development Requirement
(Burial Containers for Weapons)

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OPERATIONAL DEVELOPMENT REQUIREMENT

(Burial Containers for Weapons)

1. Introduction:

a. During the period of cold war or peace, it is desirable to have the capability of caching essential items of arms and equipment in territory which is apt to be overrun by enemy action in the event of hot war. Arms and equipment so cached can then be retrieved by staybehind assets and used by them in their role of special sabotage or coup de main teams and the nuclei of small guerrilla units. Burial has been found to be the most effective and secure method of caching equipment.

b. Containers for burial caching which are now available or under development are:

<u>Container</u>	<u>Material</u>	<u>Inches</u>	<u>Weight</u>	<u>Designed For</u>
EC-101	Plastic	4 x 6 x 8 **(8. 4 $\frac{1}{4}$ x 6 $\frac{1}{4}$)	1# 8 oz.	Cryptographic Equipment and Documents
*EC-2	Steel	2 3/4 x 9 x 11 $\frac{1}{2}$	4# 8 oz.	RS-6 & Power Supply
EC-5	Plastic	3 $\frac{1}{2}$ x 6 x 21 **(& 4 $\frac{1}{4}$ x 7 $\frac{1}{4}$)	3# 4 oz.	Legs & Cable for Generator GN-58, GRC-43, or G-13-U
MD "Half Size"	Steel	7 x 8 x 9	4#	General Purpose
EC-4	Plastic	8 x 9 x 12 **(& 8-3/8 x 9-3/8)	4# 9 oz.	Generator GN-58, GRC-43, or G-13-U
*MD-39-A	Steel	7 x 9 x 17	8#	General Purpose
MD-36	Plastic	8 $\frac{1}{2}$ x 13-3/4 x 17 $\frac{1}{2}$	10#	General Purpose
*MD-33	Steel	10" diam. x 50	40#-50#	General caching under 30 feet of water
AF Ammo Box	Fiber Glass	8 $\frac{1}{4}$ x 14 x 17 $\frac{1}{2}$	10#	General Purpose

NOTES: * On hand. Others in various stages of development.

** Dimensions of tops. Containers are tapered outward at the rate of .017" per inch of height.

*** Due to great weight of MD-33, its use for general caching other than in deep water, is considered to be undesirable.

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c. Essential items to be cached in burial containers include:

<u>Item</u>	<u>CIA/SIS Standard</u>	<u>Containers</u>
(1) Explosive Kit	yes	MD-39 A
(2) Incendiary	yes	MD-39 A
(3) Limpet Kit	yes	MD-39 A
(4) Agent Radio		EC-2
(5) Photographic Kit		MD-39 A
(6) Medical Kit		MD-39 A
(7) Personal Arms (hand guns and disassembled submachine guns)		MD-39 A
(8) RS-1 Radio		EC-4
(9) RS-6 Radio		EC-2
(10) Generator GN-58, GRC-43 or G-43-U		EC-4 and EC-5
(11) RS-11 Radio (when developed)		EC-2
(12) Personal Weapons, assembled with ammunition, and light support weapons		None

<u>Weapons</u>	<u>Length</u>	
(a) Submachine gun	20"	None
(b) Mortar, 60mm, W/base Plate M1	33"	None
(c) Light Machine Gun	42"	None
(d) Rifle	43"	None
(e) Rifle, Sniper	43"	None
(f) Automatic Rifle	47"	None
* (g) Rocket Launcher 2.36"	61" (folded-32")	None
(h) Recoilless Rifle 57mm	62"	None

d. No container is available for the burial cache protection of the weapons listed above. Attempts to protect such weapons in burial caches using current techniques in wrapping, cold dipping, sealing, boxing, and crating have indicated that such techniques are unreliable for long term caching.

e. There is a requirement for one or more burial containers which, between them, will contain any of the above single weapons, or a combination or several of the smaller items, and protect them from deterioration during a long term caching period.

f. The required containers would be issued for use by Clandestine Services personnel for protection of cached weapons on an operational need basis as requested by Area Divisions.

2. Objective: To develop burial containers which will give the Agency the capability of caching assembled shoulder weapons and light support weapons for a long period, under adverse conditions, without deterioration.

* Availability questionable, however, 3.5" launcher is approximately the same length and can be folded to 31"-32".

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3. Time: There is a current need for the development of additional equipment and improved techniques for burial caching. Priority 2 is recommended for the development of arms containers for the use of stay-behind assets.

4. Description:

a. General Considerations:

(1) Since weapons to be cached will be used only in event of a hot war, U.S. weapons should be provided for caching. This will facilitate standardization of a family of containers, as well as packing and resupply.

(2) Hand and shoulder weapons should be cached fully assembled, with essential cleaning equipment and accessories, and a small initial supply of ammunition in the same container, in order that personal weapons may be available to the exhuming team for immediate protection. A larger supply of ammunition and accessories, as well as ammunition for support weapons, can be cached in separate containers.

(3) Only small teams or the nuclei of units should be provided with equipment by caching, since it is anticipated that equipment for larger units should be provided by air drop after initial resistance is actually underway.

(4) The family of containers should be kept as small in number as possible, consistent with operational requirements, packing efficiency, and cost. It is believed that

- * two containers should be developed, one of which can contain the two or three longest weapons, while the other can contain any of the other larger weapons complete, or several or a combination of the lighter items.

b. Nomenclature:

- * (1) Burial Container, Weapons, referred to hereafter as Container "A".

- ** (2) Burial Container, Recoilless Weapons, referred to hereafter as Container "B".

c. Purpose:

(1) Container "A" would be used to cache:

*DD/P Materiel Board approved one container only (Container "A") 15 Dec 55.

**DD/P Materiel Board Disapproved this container (Container "B") 15 Dec 55.

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<u>Weapon</u>	<u>Length</u>	<u>Pounds</u>	<u>Rounds</u>
(a) Submachine Gun M-3	20"	6	90
(b) Mortar, 60mm, w/base plate M.	33"	37	-
(c) Light Machine Gun, 1919A4	42"	50	-
1919A6	42"	32½	-
(d) Rifle, M-1	43"	9½	80
(e) Rifle, Sniper, M-1	43"	12	80
(f) Browning Automatic Rifle	47"	27	200

- * (2) Container "B" will be used to cache:

<u>Weapon</u>	<u>Length</u>	<u>Pounds</u>	<u>Rounds</u>
** (a) Rocket Launcher, 2.36"	61" (Folded-32")	16	-
(b) Recoilless Rifle, 57mm	62"	44.4	-

d. Performance: Containers:

(1) Should protect contents from deterioration against air, water, corrosion, mold, fungus, rot and intrusion of roots for five (5) years when buried at a depth of three (3) feet in all types of terrain, including both fresh and salt water marsh.

(2) Need not be resealable or reusable, since once weapons are exhumed, they will probably be kept in use or under more temporary concealment with intermittent maintenance by the user.

e. Design Features: Containers should be:

(1) As light as practicable, not over 60½ with contents, with 40½ preferred. For protection against shock, pressure, and abrasion, it is suggested that reliance be placed on crating. The weight of the crating, which will be removed and abandoned before burial or during exhumation, is not considered in the weights mentioned above.

(2) Of sizes and shapes most consistent with economy of packing, subject to the primary requirement for protection against deterioration.

(3) Provided with quick opening closures for ready removal of contents.

(4) Equipped with handles or rings for ease of exhumation and for attachment of straps or ropes for possible man-carry after exhumation.

*DD/P Materiel Board disapproved this container (Container "B") 15 Dec 55.

** Folded launcher can be cached in Container "A"

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(5) Be designed of materials capable of protecting contents under extremes of temperature from minus 80° to 160° F.

f. Special Features: Since containers will normally be filled with ferrous metals, there is no requirement that the container be proof against magnetic mine detection.

g. Proposed Basis of Issue: One or more per special sabotage or coup de main team or guerrilla nucleus with contents as required by Area Divisions, considering the operations planned in each individual case.

h. Methods of Meeting the Requirement: The techniques employed in the manufacture of the containers listed in paragraph 1.b. above appear to be applicable to the development of the larger similar containers required for the protection of weapons. Investigation of both a reusable and non-reusable container is desirable in order that cost, weight, ease of manufacture and ease of employment data may be acquired.

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ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET

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INSTRUCTIONS: Officer designations should be used in the "TO" column. Under each comment a line should be drawn across sheet and each comment numbered to correspond with the number in the "TO" column. Each officer should initial (check mark insufficient) before further routing. This Routing and Record Sheet should be returned to Registry.

FROM:				TELEPHONE	NO.	
Executive, DD/P Materiel Board					DATE	
TO	ROOM NO.	DATE		OFFICER'S INITIALS	TELEPHONE	COMMENTS
		REC'D	FWD'D			
1. AC/TSS/TA				EPH		Jos - here is our requirement for Container "A". WE
2. S DS		28/12	28/12	Q		
3. AC/TSS RD		12/28	12/28	EX		
4. C/TSS/ED			3 Jan	WE		
5. Vallen					TA	
6. Nelson - on or Babcock						Weapons 56 (Active)
7. Lie: Burial Container						
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